

What will France's energy system look like in 30 years?

France's energy system is about to undergo an unprecedented revolution. In fewer than 30 years, everything must change: no more oil and gas imports; a lot more solar panels, wind turbines and bio-energies. Gone will be the gas stations and oil-fired boilers, replaced by electric vehicles, bicycle paths, and heat pumps.

Why should France move away from coal & oil & gas?

In France, the energy sector is responsible for around 80% of these emissions. And fossil fuels, which are at the root of the climate crisis, currently account for 63% of the country's energy consumption. To move away from coal, oil and gas, we need a complete transformation. It must start now, and the next 10 years will be particularly decisive.

Does turning down heating reduce energy consumption in France?

According to France's Ecological Transition Agency, turning down the heating by 1°C reduces its energy consumption by 7%. Shared housing and pooled equipment (laundry, household appliances, etc.) reduces heating and energy consumption.

Why is France rethinking its low-carbon strategy?

France plans to revise its National Low-Carbon Strategy and the energy plan. This is an opportunity to align with the EU's target of reducing emissions by 55% by 2030 and respond to the EU Green Deal and the related Fit-for-55% package.

What percentage of electricity is generated by hydropower in France?

Hydropower represents half of renewable electricity generation. France aims at a share of 23% renewables in gross final energy consumption by 2020, but had 17.2% in 2019 and 19.1% in 2020 (preliminary data).

Is France a good country to invest in?

France has a highly skilled energy industry, which can be a backbone for a resilient economic recovery. While nuclear and the oil and gas sectors account for the majority of employment today, the renewables sector, notably wind and solar, has seen dynamic growth in jobs and investments.

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A new and critical phase in energy transition is developing at a rapid pace throughout the world. Companies and local governments are increasingly delivering their public pledges to zero-carbon processes, through Green Corporate Power Purchasing Agreements (PPAs).

"The trajectory outlined in France's Multi-Annual Energy Plan, currently under public consultation, calls for a

two-and-a-half-fold increase in wind capacity and a four-fold increase in solar capacity by 2035. This transformation requires significant development of flexibility solutions. Alongside demand-side flexibility, battery storage is ...

To put France on a net zero pathway and achieve the targeted decline in final energy consumption to 120.9 Mtoe in 2030, pivotal changes in France's economic structure and consumer behaviour, alongside greater digitalisation and electrification, are required.

Renewable energy is, of course, the lynchpin in a decarbonized energy regime. The report advocates developing and developed countries increase their renewable sources to as much as 90% of their energy system by resorting to cost-effective storage and backup solutions.

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